In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal into a stimulus, the computer system having a volume control that controls the amplitude of the electrical signal, the method comprising:

a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer, the computer program including instructions which apply a volume control setting in the computer system automatically;

b) executing the computer program on the computer;

c) generating a stimulus under control of the computer program by outputting an electrical signal according to the volume control setting; and

d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether or not the user heard the stimulus.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the Internet.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an email.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes ~~setting~~ applying a volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes ~~setting~~ applying a volume control setting that controls the channel balance between electrical signals from a single audio source.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes ~~setting~~ applying a volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a Wave source.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes ~~setting~~ applying a volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a stream of digital audio data generated by the computer program.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes ~~setting~~ applying a volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes ~~setting~~ applying a volume control setting that controls the channel balance of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes ~~setting~~ applying a first volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source and ~~setting~~ applying a second volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes ~~setting~~ applying a first volume control setting that controls the channel balance of electrical signals from a single audio source and ~~setting~~ applying a second volume control setting that controls the channel balance of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, further including:

a) sending first data to the server;

b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and

c) sending second data to the computer.

13. (currently amended) A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal into a stimulus, the computer system having a volume control that controls the amplitude of the electrical signal, the method comprising:

a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer, the computer program including instructions which store a volume control setting of the computer system and apply a predefined volume control setting in the computer system automatically;

b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the computer program storing ~~a value of~~ the volume control [[and]] setting of the computer system; and applying the predefined [[the]] volume control;

c) generating a stimulus under control of the computer program by outputting an electrical signal according to the predefined volume control setting;

d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether or not the user heard the stimulus; and

e) resetting the volume control to the stored ~~values~~ volume control setting of the computer system.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the act of downloading the computer program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the Internet.

15. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the act of downloading the computer program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an email.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes storing the ~~value of a~~ volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source and ~~setting a~~ applying the predefined volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes storing the ~~value of a~~ volume control setting that controls the amplitude of

electrical signals from a Wave audio source and ~~setting a~~ applying the predefined volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a Wave audio source.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes storing the ~~value of a~~ volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a Wave audio source and ~~setting a~~ applying the predefined volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a stream of digital audio data that was generated within the computer program.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes storing the ~~value of a~~ volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources and ~~setting a~~ applying the predefined volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program includes storing the ~~value of a~~ first volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source, storing the ~~value of a~~ second volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources, ~~setting a~~ applying a first predefined volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source, and ~~setting a~~ applying a second predefined volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

21. (original) The method of claim 13, further including:

a) sending first data to the server;

b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and

c) sending second data to the computer.

22. (currently amended) A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions that, when executed by a computer system having a volume control, tests the hearing of a user by:

a) setting the volume control of the computer to a predefined volume control setting overriding a volume control setting of the computer;

b) generating a stimulus under control of the computer readable instructions by outputting an electrical signal according to the predefined volume control setting; and

c) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the stimulus.

23. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume control includes ~~setting a~~ applying the predefined volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a Wave audio source.

24. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume control includes ~~setting a~~ applying the predefined volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a stream of digital audio data generated within the computer program.

25. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume control includes ~~setting a~~ applying the predefined volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

26. (original) The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume control includes ~~setting a~~ applying a first predefined volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source and ~~setting a~~ applying a second predefined volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

27. (currently amended) A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions that, when executed by a computer system having a volume control, tests the hearing of a user by:

a) storing ~~the value~~ a volume control setting of the volume control

b) setting the volume control to a predefined volume control setting;

c) generating a stimulus under control of the computer readable instructions by outputting an electrical signal according to the predefined volume control setting;

d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether or not the user heard the stimulus; and

e) resetting the volume control to the stored [[value]] volume control setting.

28. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value of [[the]] a volume control setting includes storing the value of a volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source.

29. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value of [[the]] a volume control setting includes storing the value of a volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a Wave audio source.

30. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value of [[the]] a volume control setting includes storing the value of a volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a stream of digital audio data generated within the computer program.

31. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value of [[the]] a volume control setting includes storing the value of a volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

32. (currently amended) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing [[the]] a volume control setting includes storing the value of a first volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source and storing the value of a second volume control setting that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

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